Radioactive monitoring stations

2207. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of radioactive monitoring stations to check radioactive levels set up in the country;

(b) whether air samples are collected regularly and analysed to check environmental pollution from radioactive substances; and

(c) the agencies monitoring the radiation levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There are twenty five (25) radioactive monitoring stations set up in the country to check the radioactive levels.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Environmental Assessment Division of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Health Physics Units and Environmental Survey Laboratories of Health, Safety and Environment Group of BARC at different locations in the country, two Defence laboratories (Jodhpur and Tezpur) and two universities (Andhra University and Mangalore University) regularly monitor the radioactive levels.

Power generation from thorium

2208. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has abundant quantity of thorium for nuclear power generation; and

(b) if so, the action proposed for more nuclear power generation to meet power crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Considering the enormous energy potential of the abundant thorium resource in beach sands, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has already worked out plans for generation of nuclear power based on thorium. As a first step the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has designed